

REMARKS

In making a post-filing review of the application, the Inventors found a few errors that are corrected in this Preliminary Amendment. In the "Description of the Figures" under FIGURE 1b, "Fig. 1a" was erroneously referred to as "Fig. 10a". In preparing the application, it has been decided that Figure 2 be deleted. References to "Fig. 3" in the text were corrected to "Fig. 2" but the actual FIGURE 2 was not removed nor was the "Description to the Figures" revised. The Inventors believe that Fig. 2 as filed is potentially misleading and not helpful or necessary for the disclosure of the invention. Therefore, this figure has been deleted and original Figure 3 has been renumbered as Figure 2. No new matter has been added by any of the proposed amendments or figure deletions.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at the Los Angeles, California telephone number (310) 734-5403 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance.

If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-1796, referencing docket number 26409.00100.

Respectfully submitted,

CROSBY, HEAFEY, ROACH & MAY

Date: 15 April 2002

By: _____

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Red lined version with markings to show changes made:

Page 7, lines 19-24 and Page 8, lines 1-2:

FIGURE 1b shows a scanning electron micrographs of the coating of Fig. [10a] 1a illustrating details of the fracture face showing a columnar structure with feather-like features.

[FIGURE 2 shows an X-diffraction pattern for a coating deposited at 860°C and 910°C (the marked curve is reference LaPO_4).]

FIGURE [3a] 2a shows a thick LaPO_4 coating, showing columnar structure, deposited on sapphire at room temperature by laser ablation.

FIGURE [3b] 2b shows a thin LaPO_4 coating deposited on sapphire at ~800°C by laser ablation and subsequently annealed at 1100°C.